

a uni-directional valve portion for passing fluid in one direction and obstructing fluid in an opposite direction;

a connector band located circumferentially around, and attached to, said valve portion; and

crit
Q₁
a plurality of fingers located circumferentially around, and attached to, said band, said fingers being oriented substantially parallel to the direction of blood flow and adapted to secure said valve to said tissue annulus.

Sub
B2
20. (Amended) A connector band for providing an interface between a uni-directional valve and a tissue annulus, said band comprising:

Q₂
a wall for location circumferentially around, and attachment to, said valve, said wall for receiving said valve; and

a plurality of fingers located circumferentially around, and attached to, said wall, said fingers being oriented substantially parallel to the direction of blood flow and adapted to secure said band to said tissue annulus.

Sub
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45. (Amended) A valve apparatus for deploying in, and securing to, a tissue annulus, said valve comprising:

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a uni-directional valve portion for passing fluid in one direction and obstructing fluid in an opposite direction, said valve having a fixed outer circumference; and

a plurality of fingers located circumferentially around, and attached to, the outer circumference of said valve, said fingers being oriented substantially parallel to the direction of blood flow and adapted to secure said valve to said tissue annulus.

REMARKS

Summary of Office Action

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9, 20, 23-25, 27, 29, 45-49, and 53 are pending in the above-identified patent application.

The Examiner noted that applicants failed to provide a listing of the claims readable on the species elected in the Reply to Office Action filed on October 18, 2001. The Examiner required applicants to provide a list of claims that read on the elected embodiment shown in FIG. 7 and show where support for the claims is found in the specification.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 20, 45, and their dependent claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one